

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-9 are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 1-9 are presented for consideration. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 21-24 have been canceled. It is believed that these changes introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 21-24 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

In paragraph 2 the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which the Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Although Applicants believe claims 21-24 are patentable as written, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the application, Applicants have canceled claims 21-24. Such cancellation renders the rejection moot and accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejection to claims 21-24.

Rejection of Claims 21-24 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

In paragraph 2 the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants' Figure 1 and U.S. Patent No. 6,081,162 to Johnson ("Johnson").

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element of the claim is found, either expressly or inherently, in a reference. (MPEP §2131 *citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Id. citing Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226,1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989)). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Although Applicants believe claims 21-24 are patentable as written, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the application, Applicants have canceled claims 21-24. Such cancellation renders the rejection moot and accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejection to claims 21-24.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all grounds for rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot and that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

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